



Hanneys News

Number 494 January 2017

'Facebook'

See - and join! - the West Hanney and East Hanney Community Facebook page.

'Hanney News'

Be sure to read it, cover to cover, without fail, every month. It contains so much useful stuff it's quite scary and is also the wittiest parish mag in Hanney!

'The Hanney Website'

Visit the Hanney website regularly: www.thehanneys.org.uk

Hanneys War Memorial Hall



To book the Hall, the Committee Room, or the Olde Hanney Room, contact Sue Garner on 868684 or 07890 953101 hwmh.hanneys@gmail.com

Hanneys Community Shop

Mon to Sat - 9am to 5pm

Post Office hours:

Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri
9am to 1pm

Tues 9am to 12 noon

Tel: Shop - 867408

Post Office - 868320

Hanneys Lottery

December Winners

Jane Bradley Hayes - £100

Tracy Underwood - £100

Judith Hockaday - £50

Joanna Brettell - £25

Not got a number yet or want to have additional numbers? Just call Hilary on 868590

Hanneys Community Association

To find out more visit:



www.facebook.com/hanneycas



twitter.com/HanneysCAs

www.hanneyscommunityassociation.co.uk

or email

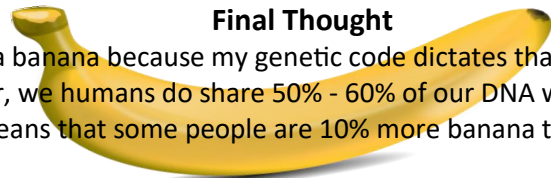
itsyourvillage@hanneyscommunityassociation.co.uk

To enquire about becoming a member

membership@hanneyscommunityassociation.co.uk

Final Thought

I am not a banana because my genetic code dictates that I am human. However, we humans do share 50% - 60% of our DNA with bananas. This means that some people are 10% more banana than others.



Submissions, Advertising and Charges

To submit an article or letter, please send it to the Editor, preferably by email to: hanneynews@gmail.com or via the box in the **Hanneys Community Shop** by the 15th of the month for inclusion in the following month's issue. Organisations are charged £12 pa for entry into the 'Regular Events' or 'Clubs and Societies' section, pages 26 and 27. To advertise please ring or email the Editor. jimstagg@btinternet.com - tel: 01235 867500

Four line adverts in 'Business Ads' are charged at £3 per month or £23 per annum. Block ads are available for £6, £12 or £18 per month, £60, £120 or £180 per annum. Other sizes by negotiation.

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A Youth Club in Hanney

You may be aware that some fine folk of this parish, specifically Becci Lawson and Sharon Geraghty, are in the early stages of organising a youth club to happen on a regular basis here in Hanney. This is an ambitious and very worthwhile project. If you can offer help of any sort, I'm sure they would be very pleased to hear from you.

Becci can be contacted by email:

r.lawson27@outlook.com or ring 07970 684404, and Sharon by email at sharon1@live.co.uk

Please remember, all little folk born between 1/9/12 and 31/8/13 need to be registered for a primary school place by 15th Jan 2017, even if they already attend a nursery



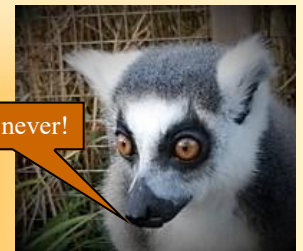
attached to the school. Easiest way is online at Oxfordshire.gov.uk/admissions or ring 01865 815175

Big up for Jamie Roach... I read an article in the Oxford Mail recently which mentioned East Hanney's Jamie Roach. Jamie, whose company **Hanneys Glazed** have a well deserved reputation for high quality work and fair prices, had heard the story of an 85 year old man in Sutton Courtenay who was robbed and beaten in his own home after the intruders kicked in his front door. Friends and neighbours rallied round and Jamie installed a brand new and much sturdier door at no charge. Well done Jamie....a very splendid gesture say I.

'Dragons Den' comes to St James!...page 11.

'Vibrant!'The accountancy firm Grant Thornton have recently produced an index of the most 'Vibrant Economies in England'. Oh err! It ranks 324 local authorities and puts our very own Vale of White Horse at number 8! Not bad eh? Here's what they said about how they reached their conclusions... *'Our Vibrant Economy Index not only considers prosperity, but also dynamism and opportunity; inclusion and equality; health, wellbeing and happiness; resilience and sustainability; and community, trust and belonging.'*

Though they didn't mention us by name, there is no doubt in my mind that the decision by 'Hanneys News Global International' to locate our HQ here in Hanney - we had offers from Paris, Dubai and Kingston Bagpuss btw- pushed the Vale significantly higher up the rankings, as we continue with our corporate mission to spread all that good stuff they listed above.



Well, I never!

Editorial

Friends, another new year is upon us and one of my first tasks is to sincerely thank Phil and Fi at the Plough in West Hanney



for all their hard work over the last year and a half. They leave us this month for pastures new, and we wish them every happiness and success for the future. Apropos of nothing, I read somewhere recently that more young people watch David Attenborough's fabulous TV show 'Planet Earth' than the 'X Factor' - not knocking the latter of course - but if true, that's good news methinks. Talking of animals, you will have already met, on the front page, the newest member of our team, 'Lemmie' the lemur. Not to be confused with Lemmie the recently deceased bass player of heavy metal rock legends Motorhead, this Lemmie is in fact a Madagascan ring-tailed lemur and he lives at the Cotswold Wildlife Park. I urge you to pay him a visit; it is a great place if you like animals. This month we have been able to include something from Matt Barber, Leader of our District Council and known to many of us. It's about the newly adopted Local Plan and worth a read. (East Hanney Parish Council also mention the plan on

page 6). If by the way, you're one of the folk who would like to regularly hear or read the 'pearls' of Matt, and maybe our MP Ed Vaizey too, then please note the panel at the bottom of page 3. Matt and Ed both produce monthly newsletters that you can get by email. Incidentally, Matt didn't mention in his latest missive about the Vale being the eighth most vibrant economy in England. Either he didn't know, or he's being his usual modest self, but he - and we all - can be proud of ourselves. Let's spread the lurve people! And still on Matt, congrats to him for just adding 'Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley' to his extensive roll of duties. If you glimpse across to page 3 to the '...and further ahead' section, you'll see that the W.I are holding a fashion show at the end of March...sounds exciting, though I'm yet to be invited to strut my stuff on the catwalk. Perhaps they're booking me through my agent, or simply unaware of my previous career on the glamour runway? Talking of treading the boards, our lovely luvvies the Hanney Drama Group are at it again soon - see page 17 for details of the serious dose of uber culture they have lined up for all of us who appreciate an occasional wander in the garden of thespian delights. This is a combined effort with the Domino Players, so I'm hoping for some free pizza during the interval! Geddit? Happy New Year my friends!!

Hanney News Global International. West Hanney HQ. Oxfordshire, UK.

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Treasurer - Chris French 868876, chris-french@hotmail.co.uk

Distributor - Paul Haines 868811, paul@hainesp.plus.com

WANTAGE CHORAL SOCIETY rehearses every Tuesday at CofE School, Newbury St. (next to Comrades Club) at 7.30pm. New voices always welcome. Contact Judy Gibbons 868516, www.wantagechoralsociety.co.uk, email wantagechoralsociety@yahoo.co.uk.

WANTAGE GARDENERS ASSOCIATION : 9am - 12noon every Saturday Feb-Sept. See website for details of all they offer. www.wantagegardeners.org.uk

WILTS & BERKS CANAL TRUST/EAST VALE BRANCH First Wednesday in the month, Social Meeting at the Hanney British Legion 8pm. Details contact Brian Stovold on 763072 wbct.org.uk

NORDIC WALKING CLASSES WITH LISA FROM OXFORDSHIRE FITNESS daytime, evening and weekend classes available please call Lisa on 07885635367, email lisa@oxfordshirefitness.co.uk or visit www.oxfordshirefitness.co.uk for more details or to book a taster session.

HANNEY WI (WOMEN'S INSTITUTE) meet the second Thursday of the month (not Aug) 7.30 - 9.30 in the Olde Hanney Room. New members are welcome, contact Angela Morris Tel. 223245, Email: angie.m@ntlworld.com or Helen Evans 868542

Regular Events

HANNEY LITTLE RAINBOWS, Activity and fun for 0 - 3 yr olds meet every Monday, 9.30 - 11.30am. At the Village Hall Contact Hayley Aram for details 07900 696 921

OXFORDSHIRE FITNESS CLASSES Mondays 6.15 - 7.15pm Legs, Bums & Tums at the British Legion; Thursdays 6.15 - 7.15pm. Pick and mix exercise at the British Legion. Call Lisa on 07885635367

YOGA (HATHA) – MIXED LEVEL at Hanney War Memorial Hall, Fridays 9.30-11am. £45 for 6 sessions; £9 for drop-in. Ring Eleanor on 01865 863316 or email eleanorwadge@yahoo.co.uk to book or for more information.

HANNEY CHAPEL. Every Sunday, Morning Service at 10.30 (and "Explorers" for children) - creche available. Evening Service at 6pm. All welcome. "Jumpstart" club for 6-10 year olds, Thurs 6pm. Friday Club for 10-15 year olds at 7.30pm, both in term time. Thursday Lunch & Listen first Thurs in month 10.30am. Contact Bob Pritchard on 868864.

HANNEY PRE-SCHOOL meets term time, in the Elliott Building in the grounds of St James School. For 3+ year olds: Monday - Friday 9am – 2pm, For 2+ year olds: Mon - Fri 9am - 2pm. Contact Hanney Pre-School on 07759181330 or see www.hanneypreschool.co.uk

OLDE HANNEY ROOM COFFEE SHOP, Tuesdays, 10.00-11.30am. Everyone welcome for tea or coffee - chat and a raffle.

BINGO every Sunday, R.B. Legion Hall 8pm. Cash prizes. All over 18 welcome

PILATES CLASS Wednesdays 6 -7pm and Fridays 9.15 - 10.15am (term time only) at the Royal British Legion, East Hanney. Novices and Improvers welcome. To book your place or for more details please contact Pippa Carey (STOTT Pilates teacher) on 07941 260427 or at pippa@thrive-nutrition.co.uk

Clubs and Societies

HANNEY BOWLS CLUB Wednesdays 7.30-10.00pm, and Thursdays 2.00-4.00pm. Contact 868145

RBL WOMEN'S SECTION MEETINGS are held at 8.00pm on the second Monday of the month in the RBL 66 Club. New members very welcome.

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION BRANCH meets bi-monthly on the 4th Wednesday of September, November, January, March, May and July in the RBL Club. NEW MEMBERS WELCOME.

HANNEY BADMINTON CLUB meets every Thursday in the HWMH, 8-10pm. We welcome new members. Call 868256 for details.

HANNEY TENNIS CLUB New members welcome. Club sessions Sunday 10am onwards, Tuesday 7pm - just turn up. For coaching adult or junior contact andy.aitken@growingthegame.co.uk
More information www.hanneytennisclub.org.uk or call 868261.

HANNEY HISTORY GROUP. meets 8pm every 4th Tuesday. New members and visitors welcome, non-members £3. For further info ring Bill Orson 868859.

HANNEY BELLRINGERS meet every Wednesday St James' Church West Hanney from 7.30 pm until 9 pm. Beginners very welcome. Contact Jean Hazard for more details (868883).

HANNEY GUIDES meet on Mondays 6.30 -8.00 during term time. All girls welcome, aged 10+, contact Catherine Tysoe 867356. **HANNEY BROWNIES** (aged 7+) meet on Tuesdays in British Legion Hall from 6.00 - 7.30. Contact Jacquie Donald. **RAINBOWS** (5+) in Grove on Wednesday and Thursday. Further details and waiting lists: www.girlguiding.org.uk

HANNEY GARDENING CLUB meets on the first Monday of each month in the HWMH. 7:45 for 8.00pm. Tea and coffee followed by a talk. Visit www.hanneygardeningclub.org.uk

HANNEY WHEELERS CYCLING We meet on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month at 9.30am prompt (10am after the clocks have gone back for the winter) at the Hanney WMH. New cyclists, you will be warmly welcomed for recreational local cycling with essential coffee stop!! Call Bob Wilson 868389 or bobwilson300@hotmail.com

HANNEY WINE CIRCLE meets on the 2nd Tuesday each month: www.hanneywinecircle.org.uk

HANNEY CRICKET CLUB Indoor nets available in March & April followed by outdoor training every Thursday evening throughout the summer from 6.15pm at the rec. League fixtures every Saturday, occasional friendly Sunday games & mid week T20. Contact: Secretary Jerry May 07714 033651, or first XI captain Mark Tracey 07775 503169

HANNEY YOUTH FOOTBALL CLUB trains at the rec. on Thursday night. We play in the Oxford Mail Youth League and have teams from age 5 up. If you would like to join us please contact Paul on 07510 435 508, hyfcfooty@gmail.com or visit our website hanneyyouthfc.co.uk

HANNEY TABLE TENNIS CLUB qualified coaching to a high level, or just play. Cadets, juniors and seniors, £2 per night, league matches every week, just turn up 6.30 every Thursday. Richard 07908 673367

WANTAGE MALE VOICE CHOIR rehearses at HWMH on Tuesdays, 7.30-9.30pm. The Choir is looking for more men who enjoy a good sing to join their existing number of 30 or so. Call Geoff (868440) or Nick (768249), www.wantagemalevoicechoir.org.uk

Notices...what's happening this month

Sundays 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th, St James Church. Services, details page 15.

Weds 4th, St James School, Term 3 begins...hooray!

Thursday 5th Hanney Table Tennis Club. New Year Gift: FREE ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP for all new players who turn up – come and have a go and enjoy yourselves."

Mon 9th, Hanney Gardening Club, 7.45pm, Village Hall, 'Wildflowers of Britain' by Chris Chadwell.

Thurs 12th, 7.30pm, Village Hall, Hanney W.I. 'A History of the London Underground' by Chris Caddy.

Tues 24th, 8pm, Village Hall, Hanney History Group, 'The Creation and History of the Architecture of the Pendon Landscape' by David Day.

Thurs 26th, 2.30pm Village Hall, Hanney Senior Citizens, Gentle exercise to music.

Friday 27th Hanney Table Tennis Club Home Matches at the Village Hall: Come and watch your village teams compete in the League. Free entry. Just turn up. Please be seated by 7.15.

....and further ahead

Thurs 9th Feb, St James School, Term 3 ends...sob, sob!

Thurs 9th Feb - Sat 11th Feb Hanney Drama Group, 'Comedies of Errors'. Page 17

Mon 20th Feb, St James School, Term 4 begins, Yipee!

Sat 25th Feb, 8pm, Charity Sixties Night, Steventon Village Hall, details on page 10.

Thurs 30th March, Hanney W.I. Fashion Show...details next month.

Thank you to everyone who supported the

Harry Potter Christmas Bazaar.... A special thank you to Dews Meadow for their generosity and to everybody who donated prizes. We made a HUGE profit of over £2,000! We are very grateful to the Black Horse who donated £250 from the firework display. The Friends of St James School would like to wish everybody a happy and peaceful 2017.



Contact details for our political chums.

Ed Vaizey MP - 'You can contact me on any matter at the House of Commons, SW1A 0AA, 020 7219 6350

or dicksonce@parliament.uk.

Vale of White Horse District Council leader **Matt Barber's** email and website addresses:

councillor@matthewbarber.co.uk

www.matthewbarber.co.uk

Here's some of the team who helped Angela Cousins produce her lovely book 'Bread, Boots and Coal' that we reviewed last month. Copies still available. L - R, Martin Trowell, Jonty Jay, Sue Wright, Angela Cousins, Jim Stagg and Michael Calderbank



Photographer Steve McKechnie

Many thanks to everyone who was able to support the recent Christmas gifts and holly



sale that Bob Wilson and I organised. It was a rather impromptu affair and a much needed semblance of order was brought to the occasion by Georgia Newman, Miri Brundrett and Phillipa Kendall, all three of whom work tirelessly for our community in a variety of ways. As well as taking a stall for their 'Handmade in Hanney' business, they supplied yummy refreshments and helped us raise £124 to donate to St James Church. Bob proved a consummate salesman, selling over £80 worth of the prickly green stuff. My wife's jugs proved very popular - she's a potter! - as did the other items on sale, including jewellery, bow ties and the like. We do indeed have some extremely talented folk in our villages. All agreed that it was a very jolly community event and we'll try and do the same next year, only bigger and more organised!

Entries in the Hanney Gardening Club Christmas Wreath Competition...mine didn't win. Shame.



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Part-time Bar & Restaurant Staff

From the end of January we will be offering part time/job share positions serving behind the bar and in the restaurant of

The Plough, West Hanney.

Bar staff have to be aged 18 years or older. Previous experience is not required as full training will be given.

These positions will suit people who wish to work flexible hours and days during lunchtimes or for evening and weekend work.
We also need a cleaner for the pub for one hour in the late morning every day. This could also be a job share position.

If you want to find out more, please contact
Chris French on chris-french@hotmail.co.uk
or Phil Larder on philip.larder@btinternet.com

**HANNEY FILM NIGHT in the OWEN WRIGHT CINEMA,
HWMH, FRIDAY JAN.6TH.7.30 for 8.00pm
£6, conc. £5 Bar & Doors Open 7.30**

"The Crow's Egg"

Director: M. Manikandan

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Do you love to sing, but are not actively involved in music making at the moment?

Do you sing already, but would like to try something new in 2017?

Harmony InSpires, an all-female a Cappella chorus based in Appleton, invites women of all ages to join a FREE evening course in a Cappella harmony singing on 8th, 15th and 22nd February 2017

Find out more at: www.harmonyinspires.org or email sing@harmonyinspires.org



East Hanney Parish Council

Firstly, a belated Happy New Year to all residents of East and West Hanney.

As I am sure you are all aware, the Vale of White Horse DC's Local Plan 2031 part 1 has now been adopted. This has defined the District's 5-year land supply and removed East Hanney as a strategic site and thus any larger developments would be considered outside the requirements of the Plan. The Local Plan part 2 is now in its final stages of drafting and will be out for consultation fairly early in 2017. The PC will consider it in the same way as Part 1 and respond as appropriate.

The PC has commissioned a company to install three new dog waste bins on the playing field. The sites were identified with reference to local knowledge and in consultation with local dog owners. All three bins were installed just before Christmas and are at the north and south ends of the avenue of trees and close to

the field gate by the overflow car park for the Hall. These bins will be emptied by the company that is installing them on Mondays and it is hoped that the locations prove convenient to dog walkers.

The PC will be discussing its annual budget in January and will again consider the requirement for a precept. Any precept raised will be used to ensure the facilities in the Village are maintained to a sufficient standard, including the pieces of play equipment in the playground. To this end the PC will be reconsidering the requirements to repair the tube slide of the play tower.

Parish Council meetings are open to the public and are held on the first Wednesday of each month at 8pm. The agenda will be available to view on the notice board outside the Community Shop, on the Council's website and on Facebook a week in advance.

The next meeting dates are 4th January and 2nd February 2017.

East Hanney Parish Council

Chairman: Jim Triffitt 868314 (Allotments)

Vice Chairman: Stewart Scott 868503 (Neighbourhood Plan and Technical Issues)

Councillors:

Paul Aram 868858 (Playground and Playing field)

David Kirk 07740029059 (Neighbourhood Action Group)

Judy Long 868425 (Footpaths)

Stephen McKechnie 868823 (Village furniture and annual litter pick)

Clerk:

Guy Langton 867403 gl-ehpc@outlook.com

Parish Council website: <http://www.easthanneyparishcouncil.org.uk>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/436816943170450/>

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or email - lucykpalmer@gmail.com



Looking for Childcare?

Why not use our **Breakfast and After-School Club** at St James Primary School? Breakfast Club opens at 7.45am and costs £4. After-School Club is open until 6pm and costs £10. We take regular & ad-hoc bookings.

We also offer all-day childcare for school holidays and Inset days when any children of primary school age are welcome.

Contact Ruth Haynes ruth@karibuni.cc 07948 293034

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West Hanney Parish Council

At the time of writing we have not been able to reach agreement with Scottish and Southern Energy as to a method of making the new supply pole on The Green safer for pedestrians. On health and safety grounds we have therefore written to them requesting the removal of this pole which was placed on parish owned land without any consultation or permission. We await a response!

A public meeting was held in the village hall on Monday December 12th to discuss the application by Beaumont Developments (part of Sweetcroft Homes) to build a further 18 homes fronting School Road. At least 60 villagers attended, and as expected, all were against this further erosion of the green area between East and West Hanney, and were unanimous in the decision to put up a robust fight against the proposed development.

Sweetcroft decided that they had to try for this new site due only to the Vale planning committee's decision to grant permission for 15 homes on the opposite side of School Road.

Contrary to some opinions, Sweetcroft will not go back on their agreement to gift the 7.5 acre field adjacent to the community woodland to the village. This is actually a legal S106 commitment agreed as part of the planning permission granted for 8 houses in 'The Old Orchard' and the legal documents for transfer to West Hanney Parish Council are currently being produced.

The Vale's refuse contractors have advised that if, during periods of adverse weather conditions, it is not possible to collect waste on the scheduled day we should leave our bins out for two further days. If not collected by then please take them back in until the next scheduled Green or Grey collection day. Having said that, during the Christmas period 28th December - 13th January, it must be the revised collection day only. If bad weather halts collections on the specified day during this period no further attempt will be made until the next normal collection in two weeks. Confusing, yes but understandable!

A VERY HAPPY AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR TO ALL.

Next Meeting Tuesday 24th January 7.30 St. James Bell Tower

Your Councillors:-

- Chris Surman (Chairman) - 868749 Edward Wilkinson - 867316
- Kay Sayers (Cllr & Clerk) - 868146 Trevor Brettell - 868459
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Thank you to all the villagers who gave Fi & myself so much support since June 2015.

So much fun, fine food and great drinks...and many friends made. For all those who did not like what we did, sorry...can't please everybody. Hope you will be very happy soon. See you at the AGM if not before.

Happy New Year
Phil & Fi

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Amanda Wall has been in touch to tell me about an event she's organising to help with some very worthy fundraising she's undertaking by running the London Marathon in 2017. Well done Amanda! Here's her story.

*I first took up running in 2014 and have since raised £700, running half marathons for a local charity. I am now taking on a bigger challenge, raising money for Age UK by running the London Marathon 2017 and holding a **Charity 60's Night** to contribute towards this. As a physiotherapist I have seen first hand the benefits of some of Age UK's projects, such as 'Dementia Oxfordshire' and the physical activity service 'Generation Games'. I*

wholly promote opportunities to exercise for older people and those living with long term medical conditions. Money raised means more funds to support schemes locally, which can help to get more people moving and enjoying life to the full. Friends, family and neighbours you know may benefit from such ventures. Please support me in achieving this huge physical challenge, which will hopefully help many others to achieve theirs.

If you can support Amanda, here's her Just Giving account web address:

www.justgiving.com/fundraising/physioamanda



Continuing our policy of bringing you fluffy kitten stories - here's a super snap of a very lovely young couple who recently got wed, and boy do they look happy! Aah! They are Nik Shepherd and his bride Rachel - nee Turner, of East Hanney. We of course wish them both every happiness for their future together. May I also compliment whoever threw the confetti - or maybe it's actually a small twig with several leaves on it? - that adorns Nik's head, adding significantly to his tonsorial elegance! If you have a feel-good story, we wanna hear it; fluffy kittens not essential.



The Vale of White Horse District Council has recently adopted the **Local Plan: 2031 (Part 1)**, ensuring communities are better protected from speculative development.



Following the Council meeting where the Local Plan was formally agreed, the final version can now be published.

The Vale is now considered to have a five year housing land supply and major developments should now proceed in accordance with the Plan.

The council will now use the Local Plan (Part 1) to determine planning applications throughout the district. This means the Vale Council will have much greater control over what developments are allowed to be built.

I am delighted that we've been given the go-ahead to adopt Part 1 of the Vale Local Plan: 2031. It means that after a process that has taken several years and has seen communities across the Vale contributing, we are now in a position to have much

greater control over all development in the Vale.

Adopting the Local Plan not only gives the Council more control over where housing is delivered, but also makes it easier to secure the much needed infrastructure funding that should go with it. This will be enhanced further when we adopt the Community Infrastructure Levy as well. In Spring 2017, Vale of White Horse District Council will consult on the preferred options for the Local Plan: 2031 (Part 2) – this will cover allocating strategic sites to meet Oxford City's unmet housing need, and other sites to ensure that the Vale's own housing needs are met in full.

Matt Barber. Leader, Vale District Council.

You are very welcome to the
Hanney Chapel Morning Service

In the War Memorial Hall on Sunday January 8th , 10.30 am.

The question we will be thinking about in the sermon is

Do all roads lead to God?

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'Dragons Den' at St James School.....here's a couple of snaps of some of the young entrepreneurs I met the other day at St James School as I became a 'Dragon' with £500 to invest in their 'Christmas Lights Decoration' inventions. An impressive array of sparkly items were demonstrated and explained to me and my three fellow dragons - Kathy Ethelstone, Will Harvey and Gill Thompson - by the children who had all put a great deal of work and imagination into the project. Well done kids, and well



done Heather Richards their teacher; a splendid effort all round. (Heather also took these snaps.)



'No One Should Have No One'

is an initiative started by **Age UK** aimed at making folk aware just how devastating loneliness and isolation can be. Its effect on mortality is reckoned to be as damaging as the well known risk factors such as obesity and smoking.

One way that **Age UK Oxfordshire** works to combat the problem is through their 'Phone Friends' service. Volunteers make approximately 500 calls per week to some of the loneliest and most isolated people in society. Some of them are home or even bed-bound, unable to take advantage of other services such as lunch clubs, and often feeling forgotten and overlooked as a result. They receive at least one call a week from one of the caring and committed **Phone Friends** volunteers. If becoming a volunteer is something you might be interested in,

here's some details...

*Calls are made from the Banbury office during 2 hour shifts when you will phone the same 8 lonely people every week. It may be possible for calls to be made from your home, and if you are unable to commit to a weekly shift, you may still be able to help, covering for sickness and holidays, sometimes at short notice. Full training takes place at the Banbury office. **If you would like to know more, like to join the team or come in for a chat and a look round, please call Paula Donaldson 07557 038278.***

It is vital that this service, the 'Information and Advice' line and other Age UK Oxfordshire services receive funds in order to continue. If you would like to help us, please visit <https://www.justgiving.com/campaigns/charity/ageukoxfordshire/noone>

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Letters

Dear Editor

Harry Potter and the committee on fire!!!

Even as an adult I found this year's school fete particularly enchanting! The St James school committee completely surpassed themselves with the detail that went into organising a fantastic event!

They really are unsung heroines of the village and give their time and talent to making our lovely village school a great place that holds impressive fund raising events for all to enjoy. I would like to say thank you

From Gemma, Mark, Charlie & Darcey Jackson

Dear Editor,

On behalf of us all at St James, I would publically like to thank Bob Wilson and Jim Stagg for their inspired idea to hold a Holly & Christmas Gifts Sale to raise funds for the church 'Loo Fund'.

I understand that such an event was held in times past and was very popular so thank you for re-instating it and generating new enthusiasm to make this a part of the Hanney calendar again and an enjoyable way to spend a Saturday morning and support local enterprises at the same time.

God bless,

John Durant, Vicar

The Winter Lane footpath.

My regular monthly email enquiry to Bellway Homes and the Highways Dept of the Oxfordshire County Council has elicited this response dated 15th December, from Matt Walsha, Bellways regional engineer. I quote...

'We have some positive news, as we have now received approval from the Land Drainage Authority for the ditch works and the S278 legal agreement is currently underway with OCC for the footway works. Once the legal agreement is concluded we will be able to undertake the works on site.

I would hope the legal agreement will be complete within 4-6 weeks, but this is obviously subject to the Solicitors. Based on this I would estimate a start date for the constructions works of February/March next year. We will keep pushing for completion of the legal agreement and will update you with a proposed start date for the works once we are in a position to confirm this. If you have any questions in the meantime then please let me know.'

Call me naïve, but I actually believe they do want to get this job done...no really!



'You're naïve. Where's my dinner?'



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

Dear Friends

The Christian Church has traditionally taught that marriage is a lifelong commitment and covenant between one man and one woman, based on Christ's values of faithful love, caring support, mutual pleasure and creative nurture. Jesus called his followers to proclaim a renewing love, marked by forgiveness and resurrection.

This love gives us spiritual renewal, eternal life, and a personal relationship with God; which is illustrated by marriage at its best.

The Church of England from its outset has always acknowledged that relationships break down and unfortunately marriages fail. Indeed, it has sought to offer pastoral support to those who remarry and is aware that some wish to remarry in church. So in effect, the church wants to give two contradictory messages; that marriage is for life, but all too often marriage breaks down, so forgiveness and new starts are required.

The Church of England's Bishops over the years have given various directions, but essentially always allow the local ministers to decide whether they would marry a couple following a divorce. I have been consulting with the PCC members of our four churches in the Vale benefice, who have a variety of different views and have waited till we appointed our associate vicar before any change is made.

Having discussed this issue with Alec, who is prepared to consider marrying those who have been divorced, the process with which we will now be following, outlined below, is in line with the bishops guidelines (which can be found on the Church of England's website).

1. Initial enquiry and explanation of choice. Interview(s) with a member of the clergy.
2. Interview(s) with a retired member of the clergy.
3. Consultation between the clergy and retired clergy regarding what decision should be made.
4. Informing the couple of the decision.

We will still offer a Blessing of Marriage, but there may be circumstances when it is possible to explore having a wedding in Church, for those who have been divorced. Whatever your views on this issue and whatever you are facing this coming year I do pray that you will know the Lord's guidance, peace and blessing in 2017.

John and Alec
Vicars of the Benefice of the Vale

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